

Air Force

SBIR

Impact



Providing Automated Support to the Intelligence Analyst

Company:

Lynne Gilfillan
Associates, Inc. (LGA)

Location:

Fairfax, VA

Employees:

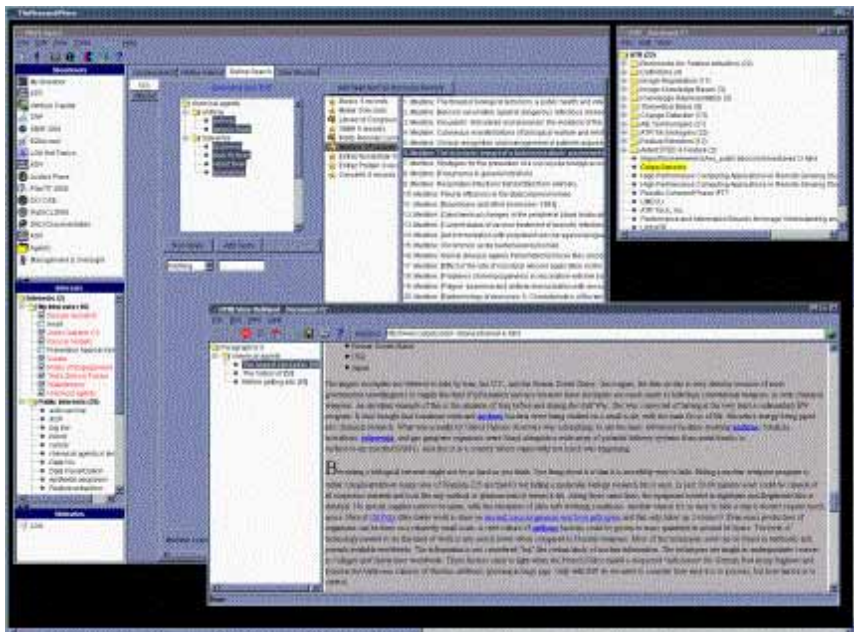
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President:

Lynne Gilfillan, Ph.D.

Project Officer:

Stanley E. Borek,
AFRL Information
Directorate Rome, N.Y.



This screen shot shows how an analyst might use TheResearchPlace™ to search particular data sources for information on chemical agents (top middle panel), analyze the results with dynamic linking on relevant concepts (bottom panel), and then organize the results in a shared shoebox (top right panel). The extreme left navigation panel indicates a list of shoeboxes that are shared with different groups, followed by a list of personal and public interests.

Air Force Requirements:

In today's work environment government and commercial organizations increasingly depend on their knowledge analysts whose specialized training and experience often enable their organizations to maintain their competitiveness. In the defense community, intelligence analysts use their skills to find information required to build mission-critical products. The Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) was searching for systems and processes to provide automated support to these intelligence analysts as they face a growing number of complex challenges. These challenges include:

1. The easy accessibility of the Internet (or Intelink), electronic libraries, and large enterprise databases has exponentially increased the amount of information available.
2. Sub-specialization among intelligence analysts makes it more difficult to share knowledge quickly and precisely.
3. New data sources go "on-line" daily, and existing sources change frequently.
4. Intelligence analysts gather and analyze information against tight deadlines.
5. Subject complexity with sub-specialization necessitates collaboration for accurate analysis.
6. Working together is difficult, especially when colleagues are geographically disbursed.

For more information on this story, contact Air Force TechConnect at 1-800-203-6451 or at www.afrl.af.mil/techconn/index.htm

SBIR Technology:

LGA is currently in a Phase II enhanced effort under the Air Force SBIR Program, partnered with the National Cancer Institute (NCI). In this project, called "Dynamic Assignment of Links for the Intelink" or DALI, LGA investigated technologies, researched theoretical concepts, and developed a solution addressing the needs of intelligence analysts. DALI enhances existing search technology, such as the Alta Vista search engine on Intelink, to not only provide better search results, but also embed searches within a complete research environment. In this environment, analysts can formulate their investigations, execute data gathering across a variety of sources, and organize and annotate the results. This activity is embedded in a collaboration environment, where both the investigations and the organized results can be shared in hierarchical group formations. This also provides support to new analysts, who need to understand how experts in their field organize their material and gain insights.

Company Impact:

Commercial interest in the technology grew as individuals in the NCI transitioned to the private sector. This interest led LGA to use internal capital to develop capabilities specifically addressing commercial needs, and to begin selling and marketing the product. The commercial product name was changed to "TheResearchPlace™" to reflect LGA's primary market focus.

Several federal agencies/organizations are presently using or preparing to use TheResearchPlace™ (enhanced DALI): NCI, Intelink Service Management Center (ISMC), National Imagery and Mapping Agency (NIMA), and three other organizations within the Intelligence Community. LGA also has contracts pending signature with the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists and Wake Forest University.

The product is useful in any research-oriented domain. However, LGA is first marketing TheResearchPlace™ to cancer centers and pharmaceuticals groups because of the extensive feedback from the medical community at NCI. To date, six cancer centers have requested proposals for TheResearchPlace™ installations. Other communities have expressed interest, including banking, justice, education, and aerospace. The company is also working with a number of other organizations to introduce and market the product.

Company Quote:

"The Air Force SBIR Request for Proposal envisioned a software application that would help intelligence analysts easily locate and manage information on Intelink. It provided the program architecture that allowed us to develop a tool that is easily customizable to other domains. The SBIR program has allowed LGA to transition from a government based service company to one with a dynamic commercial product."

Lynne Gilfillan, Ph.D.

CEO, Lynne Gilfillan Associates, Inc.

SBIR

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